

ALE Analytics - A microbial data warehouse and analytical suite

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Abstract

Adaptive Laboratory Evolution (ALE) is a powerful experimental tool used by academic and industrial labs for a number of applications. ALE experiments generate a substantial amount of data, coming in the form of sequencing reads, alignment reports, and sample metadata. As ALE experiments scale to include more samples, the task of managing this data comes at higher costs due to the effort necessary to organize and integrate data into a format that describes the evolution process succinctly. In this work, we describe the development, deployment and iteration of an 'ALE Analytics' pipeline and web platform that streamlines the necessary ALE experiment data post-processing, manages experiment data, and produces interactive reports that detail an ALE experiment. Our design has been primarily driven by the need to consolidate large amounts of ALE experimental data in such a way to describe the quality of the sample sequencing, adaptive mutations in evolved strains, the context of mutations via their metadata (i.e., culturing environments, strain properties), and related mutations found in other experiments housed in the database. We have done so by leveraging a full stack of technologies that enable the parsing and databasing of experiment data, the execution of automated analysis on said data and the generation of web accessible reports. Future efforts will take full advantage of this developing platform to enable more depth and breadth of ALE experiment analysis with quicker turnaround.

ALE Analytics Web Platform Features

The ALE Analytics web platform integrates our ALE mutation analysis with published multi-omics data and better enables identification of causal mutations in ALE experiments.

ALE Database

Database containing the mutational data and metadata generated by the ALE data processing pipeline. This database is the basis for all analytical feature implemented within the ALE Analytics web platform

ALE Analytics

A web interface reporting ALE experiment data and trends found through automated datamining.

Sample Metadata

Contextualizing mutations using descriptions of each ALE sample: strain, genetic perturbations, media, substrate, temperature, etc.

ALE Database trend reporting

Mutation Search

Search the ALE Database by mutation specific features.

Genes

Gene specific information:

- All ALE Database mutations of a particular gene.
- 3D rendering of a gene's product.
- Highlight structure of a gene's product effected by a mutation.
- Display's ligand structure at site of mutation

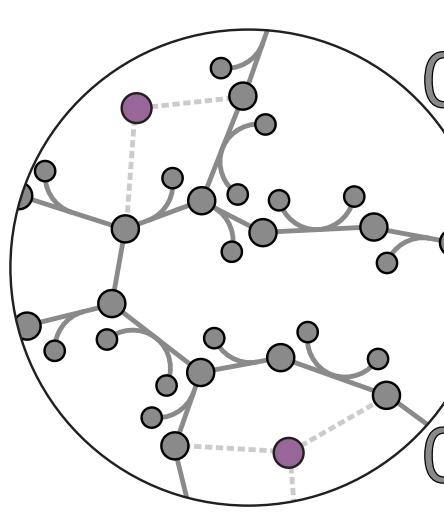
Future Directions

- Statistical analysis to rank novelty of mutations including functional clustering.
- Integrate mutations with structural annotations for structural systems biology.
- Annotation for regulatory mutations through omics data integration (RNAseq).
- Make a public branch for platform and database (currently internal only).

- Large-scale analysis of evolution dynamics from many projects and samples.
- Multiple dimension ranking for project-specific and strain-specific mutations.
- Datamine for pairwise mutations shared among different ALE Experiments and establish their relationship to a population.

References

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Common Mutations

A report of ALE samples and their sets of shared mutations. Used to find samples most mutationally similar to a currently selected sample.

Frequently Mutated Genes

A report of an ALE experiment's multiple replicates and their sets of mutations that:

1. Affect the same gene within a replicate.
 2. Affect the same gene among parallel replicates.
- Highlights which genes are more frequently mutated within an ALE experiment, potentially elucidating the functional categories that were more causal.

Mutation Fixation

A report of ALE samples and their mutations that emerged and fix within an ALE. Presents which mutations were kept by the dominant populations between flasks and therefore may have lead to fitness benefits.

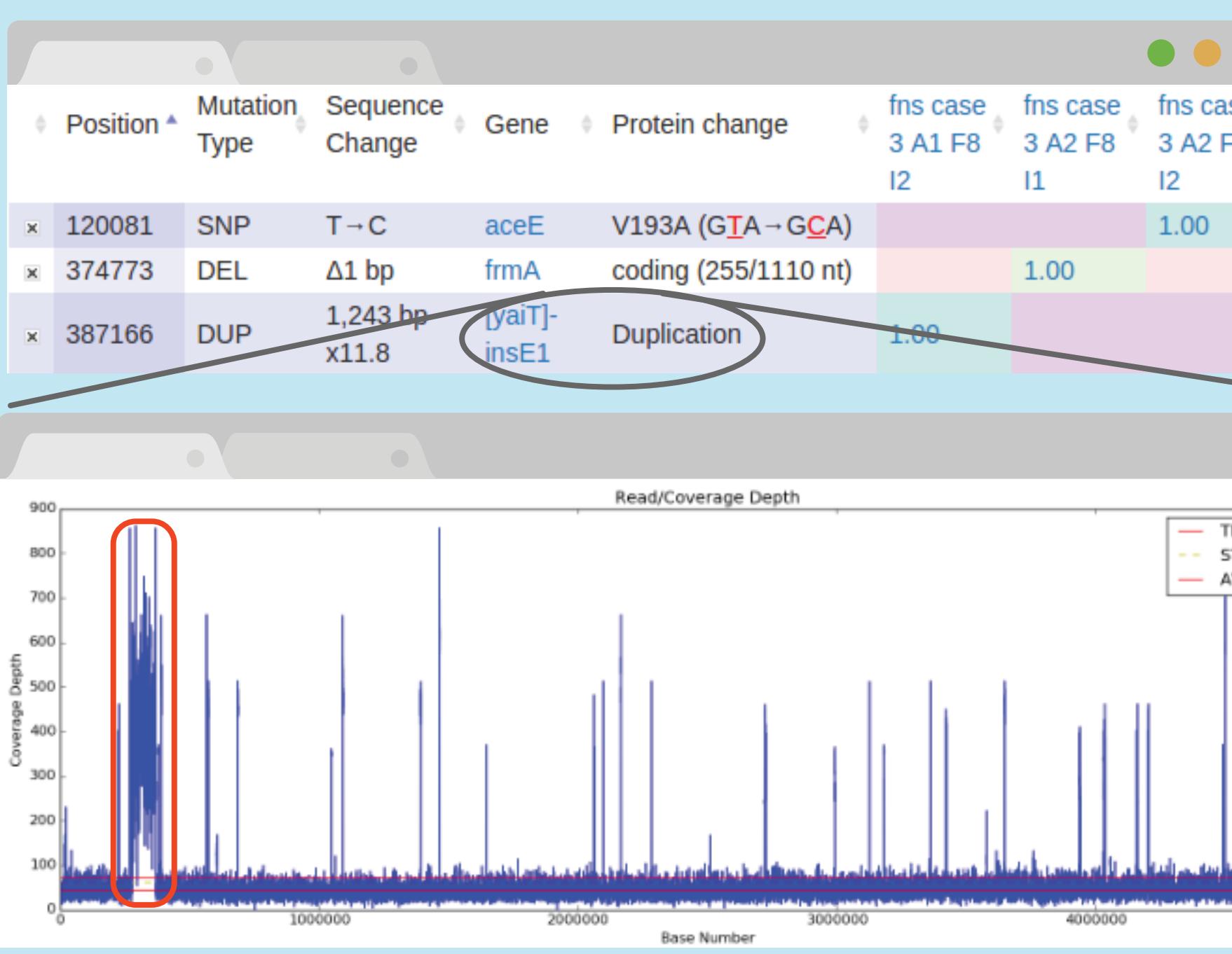
Dashboard

General statistics on entire ALE Database including:

- Most frequently mutated genes
- Most frequent mutations
- Mutation type counts (SNP, INDEL, etc.)

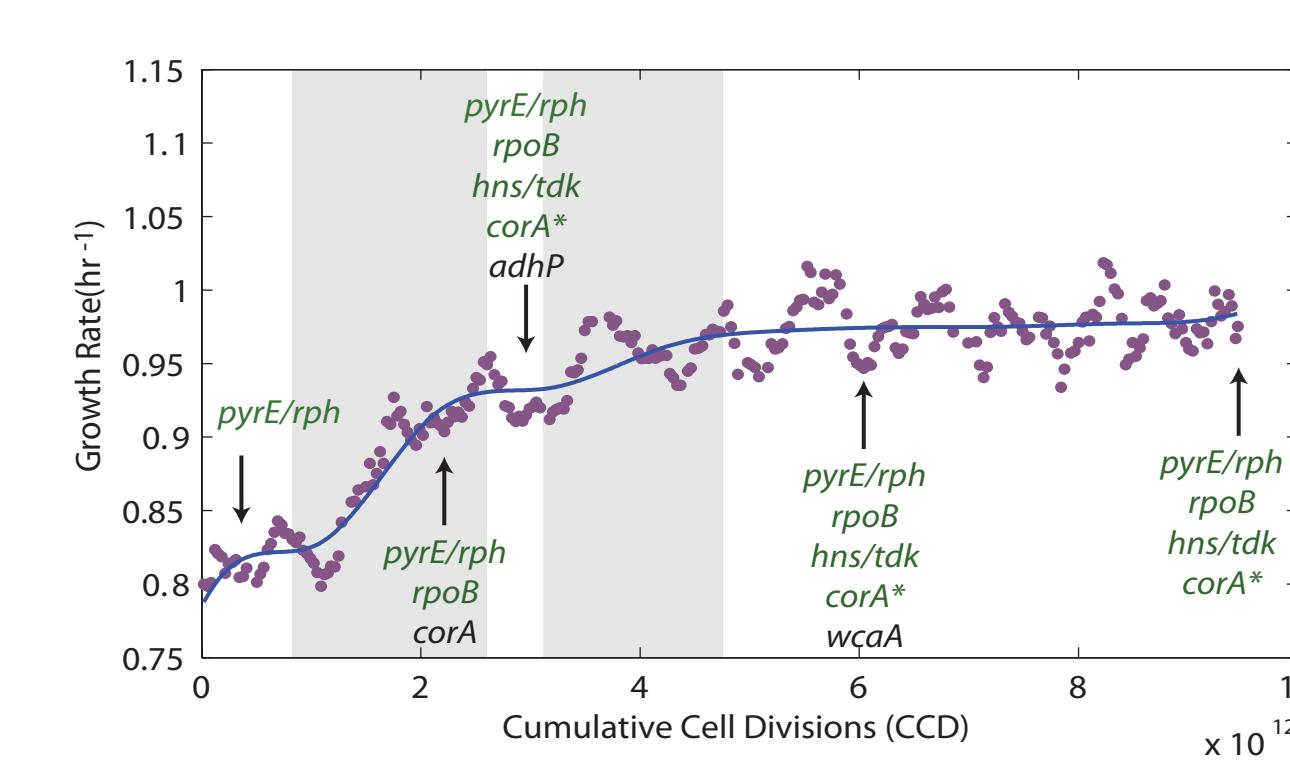
Duplications

Genetic duplication and amplification identification based on resequencing read-depth. Can find large areas of duplication that are not otherwise with current resequencing tools.



Experiment Statistics

Statistics and visualizations that can lend intuition to an ALE experiment's data quality, mutational "hotspots", most frequently mutated genes and most mutations.



Legend:
jump regions
averaged data
smoothed data
mutations that appear and persist in all following flasks
mutations that appear and do not persist

- Integrate ALE experiment fitness data to provide additional context for identifying causal mutations. As shown, mutations that appear during an exponential growth phase are more likely correlated to fitness benefits